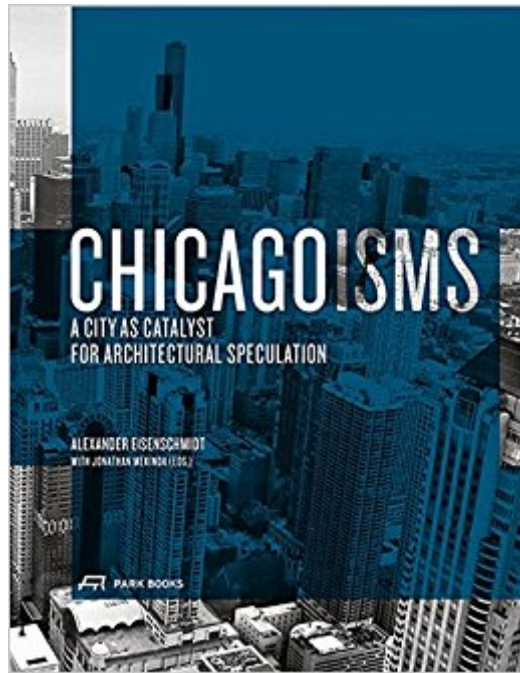




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Chicagoisms: The City As Catalyst For Architectural Speculation



Synopsis

Chicago has long captured the global imagination as a place of tall, shining buildings rising from the fog, the playground for many of architecture's greats--from Mies van der Rohe to Frank Lloyd Wright--and a surprising epicenter for modern construction and building techniques. In this beautifully illustrated volume, Alexander Eisenschmidt and Jonathan Mekinda have brought together a diverse pool of curators, artists, architects, historians, critics, and theorists to produce a multifarious portrait of the "Second City." Looking at far back as the Auditorium Building of 1889 and the 1909 Plan of Chicago, *Chicagoisms* is remarkable for the breadth of its topics and the depth of its essays. From more abstract ventures like tracking the boom-and-bust cycle of Chicago's commitment to architecture and the influence of the Chicago grid system on Mies van der Rohe, to more straightforward studies of the "Americanization" of Berlin, the editors have chosen essays that convey the complex and varied history and culture of Chicago's architecture. More than simply an architectural biography of the city, *Chicagoisms* shows Chicago to have an important role as a catalyst for international developments and debates, and pinpoints its remarkable influence around the world. The contributors explore topics as diverse as Daniel Burnham's vision and OMA's student center for the Illinois Institute of Technology, and show them to all be indelibly products of Chicago. This volume is published to coincide with the exhibition *Chicagoisms*, opening at the Art Institute of Chicago in Spring 2014.

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Customer Reviews

“One of the freshest recent books on architecture in Chicago. . . . Impressions of Chicago

are colored by personalities whose contributions were great but which overshadow the complexities and realities of the city. Many histories repeat these myths and simplifications, but this great book thankfully goes the opposite route, dismantling some of those myths and putting Chicago in an international context that shines a light on its influences. – (Archidose 2014-09-04)

Alexander Eisenschmidt is a design and theorist, who teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Architecture. Jonathan Mekinda is an architectural historian and visiting assistant professor in the Department of Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

I loved this compilation of essays. While admittedly academic, it is a beautifully rendered telling of Chicago architecture! A must have for fans of the city!

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